Safe Spraying and Intelligent Insulation

Mark Hutchins
Conservation Services Group
mark.hutchins@csgrp.com

Dispel a Few Myths…

- “Blown-in cellulose or spray foam have a higher R-value/inch than fiberglass batts”

  -only true for closed cell (R-5 to R-7)

  -open cell and DP Cellulose (R-3.3 to R3.8)

  -dense batt R-13/3.5=3.7 or R-15/3.5=4.3

- “If I blow spray foam into the walls of my house, I will easily pass the tightness threshold”

  -most of the air leakage in a home comes through large bypasses, not the walls

- “If I use batt insulation my house will not perform as well as if I had used blown or spray in.”

  -it is all in the details

Decision Factors

- Cost: Usually on the list somewhere

  -all the insulation types work as advertised when installed correctly

  -why pay more unless you have to?
- Feasibility: Is it even possible to install it here?

  -some insulation types can’t be installed in some places

  -below grade: closed cell foam, yes. Cellulose, no.

  -enclose cavities: cellulose & fg, yes. Foam, no

Decision Factors (cont)

- Code

  -unventilated (hot) roofs: foam, yes. Cellulose & fg, no.

  -really hard to do with anything but foam…

- High R-value

  -low depth cavities (slopes): closed cell foam or foam board

  -2nd choice after closed cell has to be dense batts